

**LifeGroup Shepherd Guide****Aug 6<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> 2026: Romans 9:25-33**

This guide is designed to give helpful hints in preparing for your group discussion.

**Quick Review**

Look back from your sermon notes – Was there anything that particularly challenged you from this sermon? Anything you didn't understand, agree with or connect with?

**Introduction**

What's something you've literally tripped over recently that caught you completely off guard?

OR

Share a time you misjudged something because it wasn't what you expected. Whether it was a person, a situation, a first impression that turned out totally wrong.

**Digging In**

**Question 1: Read Romans 9:25-29, Hosea 2:23, Isaiah 28:16.** Paul is showing that nothing catches God off guard, whether it be the inclusion of outsiders, the stumbling of insiders. It was written centuries in advance! How does knowing this was prophesied long before Jesus arrived change the way you view the parts of your own life, or of world events, that feel confusing or don't make sense right now?

Can you think of a season in your life that felt like a dead end or a disappointment at the time, but you can now see was part of something God was setting up all along?

Read - Hosea 1:10; Isaiah 1:9; Isaiah 10:22-23; Isaiah 8:14

**Question 2: Read Romans 9:30-32.** Self-righteousness doesn't always look religious. A lot of times it looks like moral comparison, performance, or quietly believing "I'm a good person." Read Philippians 3:4-9, where Paul lists his own religious résumé and then calls it garbage compared to knowing Christ. Where do you notice yourself, even subtly, trying to earn standing with God (or with other people) instead of resting in what Christ has already done?

**Read Galatians 2:16-17.** How does what Paul say to Peter in this statement make us as Christ-followers examine our own motivations for why we do anything?

What's a 'good works' checklist, even a Christian one, like church attendance, Bible reading, or serving that we can be tempted to trust in instead of Christ Himself?"

**Question 3: Read 1 Peter 2:4-5.** Peter says that as we come to Jesus, the living stone, we ourselves are being built into a spiritual house! It's not just that Jesus rescues us and leaves us where we are but He builds us into

something with Him, alongside other believers. What does it look like this week to live like a “living stone” connected to others, rather than a Christian who's spiritually isolated or just going through the motions?

If Jesus is described as ‘living’ rather than a dead religious symbol or a historical figure, how should that shape the way we relate to Him day to day? What if it is not just what we believe about Him, but how we talk to Him?

**Question 4: Read Ephesians 2:19-22, Psalm 118:22, Isaiah 28:16.** These passages talk about Jews and Gentiles alike are fellow citizens and members of God's household, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus Himself as the cornerstone. The cornerstone sets the alignment for everything else in the building! What is one area of your life right now, a decision, a relationship, a habit, a fear where you suspect something other than Christ has been setting the alignment?

What would visibly change in your week if Jesus were genuinely the cornerstone of your schedule or priorities, not just a belief you hold?

|                                 |
|---------------------------------|
| <b>Praise / Prayer Requests</b> |
|---------------------------------|

Pray for your group with these things in mind:

**Adoration** – How can I praise God for what this teaches me?

**Confession** – What sin can I confess because of what this teaches me?

**Thanksgiving** – How can I thank God for what Jesus has done?

**Supplication** – What do I need to ask of God in order to grow in light of this?